The

THOREAU SOCIETY

BULLETIN

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. John McAleer, Lexington, Mass., president; Mrs. Russell Wheeler, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, State University, Geneseo, N. Y. 14454, secretary-treasurer. Annual membership $3.00; life membership, $100.00. Address communications to the secretary.

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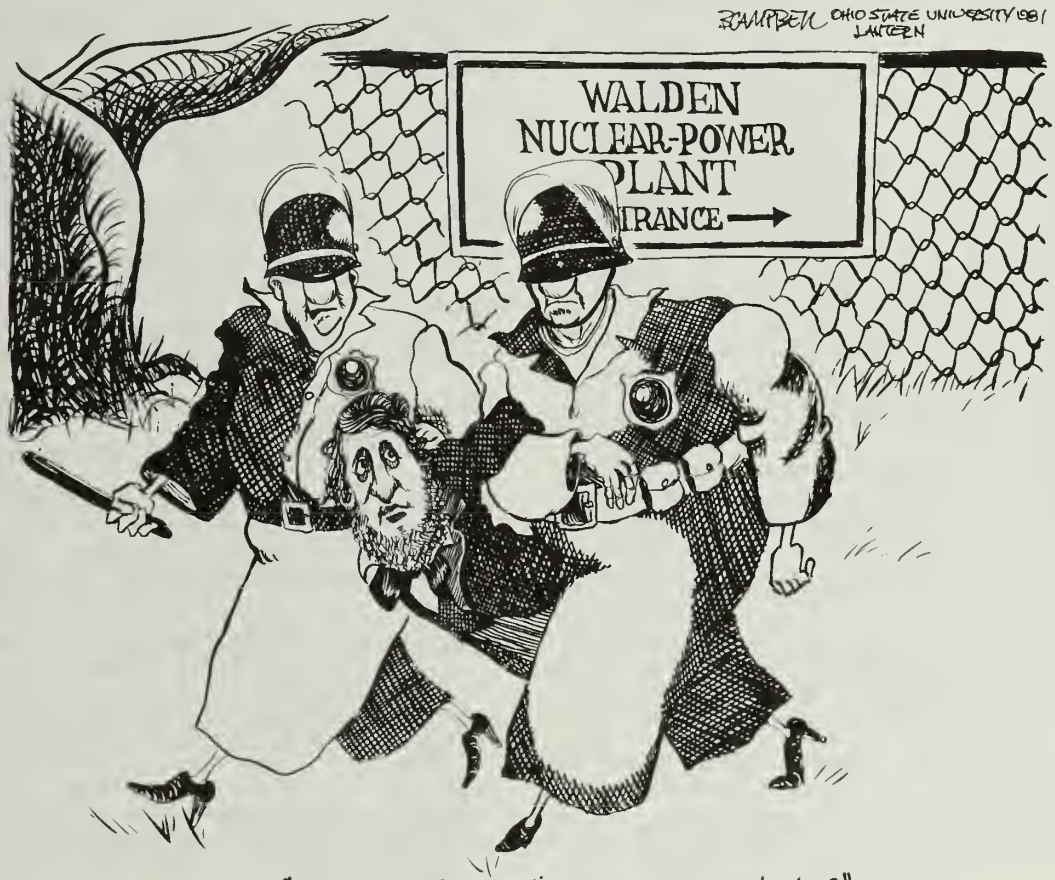
BULLETIN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE US I S S N 0040-6400 SPRING 1982

THOREAU IN EMERSON'S ACCOUNT BOOKS by Walter Harding

Ralph Waldo Emerson's unpublished manuscript account books are now in the Houghton Library of Harvard University (Call No. HCL bMS Am 1280 H 112 A-J). Recorded in them are his financial transactions with Henry David Thoreau from 1838, only a few months after they first met, to 1859, three years before Thoreau's death. Realizing their importance to both Emerson and Thoreau scholars the Houghton Library of Harvard University has graciously consented to their publication in the pages of our bulletin. They are reported here verbatim. It will be noted that the entries do not follow a strict chronological order and are printed here in exactly the order they appear in the account books. Occasionally, when it seemed helpful, I have interpolated brief explanatory notes, but always within square brackets.

1838
Ap. 2 Cash to H.D.Thoreau, for which I took his note on interest. 100 00
May 2 Cash to H.D.Thoreau 10 00
[Thoreau set off for a tour of Maine on this date, unsuccesfully looking for a teaching job.]
[Emerson notes that he gave Thoreau a copy of Carlyle's French Revolution. Emerson had arranged for its American publication in 1837.]
1849
July 13 Pd H D Thoreau for work 13.00
1850
July 30 Received of H D Thoreau unexpended balance of 70.00 paid him for expenses in journey to Fire Island Beach



"TIMES ARE CHANGIN', THOREAU, WHY DON'T YOU?"

Reprinted courtesy of B. Campbell

Cash paid him 70. Expended by him 29.00
Advanced to Channing 10.00
70 39.00
39
Balance repaid me 31.00
[When Margaret Fuller's boat was wrecked, Emerson sent Thoreau to the scene to try to find her papers. Ellery Channing was Margaret's brother-in-law.]

1851
May Rec'd from A.P.Spofford for Henry D. Thoreau 5.00
[Spofford, later Librarian of Congress, sent this money through Emerson as a token of his appreciation of Thoreau's Week.]

1850
Feb 1 Paid H.D.Thoreau, for work on house last summer 1.50

1850
April 1 Paid H D Thoreau for work on my vine-arbour in the garden 6.00
April 18 Pd H D Thoreau for surveying the town-line in my Walden woodlot 7.00

Pd H D Thoreau for a plan of my Stow wood-lot, (part of the Saw-mill lot) .50
[Land near Sandy Pond Road in Lincoln that Thoreau had persuaded Emerson to buy for its beauty.]
April 27 Pd H.D.Thoreau sum left with me by C.Stow [Cyrus Stow, prominent Concord citizen] for his survey 2.00
April 30 Mem. H.D.Thoreau began today mending the line of buckthorn hedge from Watt's [Isaac Watts, who owned property adjacent to Emerson's] line west along the edge of the upland; Shannon & Garity [presumably two Irish laborers] assisting. The heater piece [now the site of the Concord Antiquarian Society] was ploughed & the orchard in part.
May 2 pd H.D.Thoreau for 1 1/2 days labour on hedge 2.25
July 12 pd H.D.Thoreau a bill of James Connell's 2.30
July 23 Cash to Henry D. Thoreau for expenses on journey to N.Y. and Fire Island 70.00
Aug 7 Pd. H.D.Thoreau balance due him for work 2.41
Nov. 25 Pd. Henry Thoreau for surveying 1.50

1851
Oct 25 Paid H.D.Thoreau for surveys 1.00

1841
Nov 28 Cash to H.D.Thoreau for expenses at Cambridge on account of his book, advanced 15.00

1842
Dec 27 Cash to H D Thoreau on expenses for the Dial 2.52

1843
1 Jan Pd H D.Thoreau for expenses on account of Dial 1.10

April 3 Cash to H.D.Thoreau for a/c W.E. [William Emerson. Plans were being made for Thoreau's move to Staten Island to tutor Emerson's brother's children.] 10.00
[April] 4 pd. H.D.Thoreau on a/c W.E. 10.00
May 5 Cash to H.D.Thoreau for W. Emerson [Thoreau left for Staten Island on May 6.] 7.00
May 26 Pd Miss [Sophia] Thoreau for Ellen's [Emerson's daughter] tuition [Thoreau's sister that spring had started a small school in the family home.] 3.00
July 12 pd Sophia Thoreau's bill for Ellen 3.00
pd Miss Thoreau's bill for E[lizabeth] Weir [a governess for the Emerson children.] 1.67
Dec. 2 Cash to H.D.T. for papers for Dial 10.00

1844
June 5 Miss Thoreau for Ellen's tuition 1.75
Aug 27 Pd Miss Thoreau one year's subscription to Herald of Freedom [An anti-slavery weekly published in Concord, N.H., by Nathaniel Rogers. The Thoreau women were all active members of the Concord Women's Anti-Slavery Society.] 1.50

1848 [?]
Aug 26 Pd. H.D.Thoreau for sundry labours on the new house 5.00

1845
Oct. 11 Pd. H.D.Thoreau for building fence . 5.00
Pd. H.D.T. for building drain & laying cellar floor 5.00

1845
Oct. 10 Pd. Henry D. Thoreau for building fence 5.00
Oct. 18 Cash to H.D.Thoreau on loan 7.00

1846
May 6 Pd. Henry D. Thoreau on a/c of fence built on Schoolhouse lot 5.00
June 30 Pd. H D Thoreau for labor on fence & painting &c 9.35
Sept 30 Paid H.D.Thoreau in advance 15.00
Oct. 14 Pd H D Thoreau for horse [?] & cart [?] .25

1846
Dec 18 Cash to H.D.Thoreau on a/c 5.00

1847
Feb. 15 Pd. Mr. J.E.Thayer for setting a saw & other jobs ordered by Mr Thoreau for me .62 1/2
Feb. 22 Paid H.D.Thoreau balance due him including 42 cents for pencils sold 1.00
[Feb.] 25 Paid for H.D.Thoreau for 2 nos. Graham's Magazine. [Thoreau's essay on Carlyle appeared in the March and April, 1847, issues of the magazine.] .50

March 9 H.D.Thoreau's measure of wood on the lot at present 12 piles containing 11 cords 3 feet + 11 cubic feet H.D.Thoreau's measure before was 11 Jan 1847 24 cords 1 foot [Alex Therien, the French Canadian woodchopper had been cutting Emerson's wood.]

1847

April 2 pd H.D.Thoreau for surveying the Warren lot [a small field just to the east of his home that Emerson had just purchased.] 1.00

July 27 pd H.D.Thoreau for labor 3.50

Sept. 17 pd H.D.Thoreau on a/c cash 15.00

Sept. 28 Memo of terms of agreement with Hugh Whelan [Emerson's gardener] for the Wyman lot [at Walden Pond]. R.W.E. will rent the cultivable part of the lot, and the cottage [Thoreau's Walden cabin. Thoreau left his cabin to move to the Emerson home on Sept. 6] with some addition, to H.W. RWE allows a sum not exceeding $50.00 for the removal & enlargement of the cottage, and $20.00 worth of manure in the Spring; -- and Hugh Whelan shall pay for the rent of the land & of this expense 10.00 per annum, the first & second year. Thereafter, the rent to be moderately increased; Hugh engaging to plant apples, pears, peaches, & grapes; and engaging to remove no forest tree from the land. RWE retains [?] the land growing up to woods near the pond, & a road through the field from the Lincoln road & along the ridge [These plans all came to nought when Whelan the next winter after moving the Walden cabin to the Wyman lot, inadvertently undermined it, quarreled with his wife and left town.]

Oct 4 Pd H D Thoreau in full up to this date, he deducting an old payment made to him by me of 15.00 -- 16.50
pd. H.D.Thoreau in trust for Hugh Whelan 30.00
cash to A.B.Alcott for work on the summer house [Thoreau and Alcott together built a summer house for Emerson]. 50.00

1859

Oct 11 Rec'd of Mrs Thoreau & Miss Thoreau for Capt John Brown [Funds for a secret mission of Brown's were being collected. Eight days later Brown struck at Harper's Ferry.] 5.00

Nov 29 Rec'd of H.D.Thoreau, for the [John] Brown Relief Fund 10.00

Dec 19 Pd H.D.Thoreau, cash from Brown Relief Fund to pay printing expenses [Probably for the program for the memorial meeting held in Concord on the day of Brown's execution.] 3.00

1860

May 17 Pd. Henry D. Thoreau, for surveying the burnt lot. [Some of Emerson's woods south of Walden had burned in March.] 1.50

1854

Sept. 4 Recd. from Henry Thoreau on a/c of cash loaned to Mr. Flanery last year [Thoreau had gathered funds for the Flannery family, Irish immigrants in Concord, when they were in financial straits.] 2.50
balance still due 2.50

Nov. [n.d.] Recd. from Mrs Thoreau for 1/2 bushel [cranberries] 1.00

1856,

May 19 Rec'd of H.D.Thoreau a gift to the Alcott fund [Emerson established a life-annuity fund for Bronson Alcott and asked his friends for contributions. Emerson and T.Davis gave $100 each; Longfellow, Starr King, Cheney, and Wendell Phillips, $50; F.Beck, $40; and C.F.Hovey, $10.] 1.00

1857

June 4 Pd. H.D.Thoreau for work on arbor 4.50

1858

April 9 Pd H D Thoreau for 3 visits to boundaries of woodlot 3.00

1859

Ap 21 pd H D Thoreau for 2 1/2 days in planting the Wyman field [Thoreau had set out 400 white pines near the site of his Walden cabin.] 7.50
--pd. Peter Pindays [?] for work under Mr. T. 3.13

March 7, 1855

Report of the Walking Society - Wharf Rock by Mary R. Fenn

Only two members of the Walking Society are constant, Mary and Mary Gail Fenn. The others are variable. One very valuable member is Ray Angelo who has an excellent background of botany with two books to his credit, one on trees and one on bushes. He also has a successful record of finding elusive plants and sites mentioned in Thoreau's journal. So it was a party of three which set out one flaming autumn day to search for Wharf Rock.

We knew Wharf Rock was somewhere along the shore of Flint's Pond, a beautiful lake not far from Walden Pond and a little larger in size. (See the journal for April 1, 1852.) Since the pond is used for drinking water today, its only access is by footpath through the woods. We had consulted the Gleason map, but it is small and the printing so large that the rock might be anywhere, though it did establish on which side to look.

Years ago there were some simple summer cottages there well back from the shore, one stone chimney still standing among the trees, and every so often an overgrown almost unrecognizable path led to the shore. We followed several, pushing through the underbrush, and at one place came out at a tiny beach of pure white sand. It cried out for resting awhile and making castles in the sand. One "castle" turned out to be a mermaid with acorn cups for eyes, a carved pine needle for a smile, and carefully marked scales on her fine tail. I'm afraid she had a startling resemblance to Mae West.

We retraced our steps along the woodpath, bush-

whacking here and there to the pond. The bright yellow autumn foliage of the sweet pepper bushes with the scarlet leaves of the tupelos were breathtaking, especially with glimpses of the brilliantly blue water beyond. There are almost no large boulders along the shore, but at one lookout we spied far ahead a flat rock sloping out into the water. That must be Wharf Rock.

Returning once again to the woodpath, at a spot we thought might lead us to the rock, we came to an inpenetrable barrier of cat briars. But Ray had come armed with clippers, and slowly cut a trail coming out exactly at the rock we had seen. We sat on it for a long time, enjoying the balmy fall air, looking across at the colored foliage along the shore, and feeling very close to Henry Thoreau who had once sat there too. A flight of wild geese honking overhead and a red shouldered hawk soaring above us were the only signs of life.

I took pictures of the rock, and the pond, and the foliage, then walking along the shore aimed my camera down at the pretty ripples in the sand under the water. When I had returned home and looked up the references to Flint's Pond I found that Thoreau had seen those ripples too. "June 20, 1850. The ripple marks on the sandy bottom of Flint's Pond..feel hard to the feet of the wader."

At last it was time to leave. We were sure we had found the right rock, but just to be doubly certain we stopped at the Library, got the key to the case of Thoreau books, and looked up Gleason's picture of Wharf Rock to see if we had really found it. We had. [Editor's note: Our apologies to Mrs. Fenn for inadvertently dropping her name as author from her "Walking Society" paper on the Old Manse in the Winter, 1982 Bulletin.]

March 14, 1855

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY..WH

Abbey, Edward. "The Green River Dialogues." OUTSIDE, 7 (March, 1982), 66ff. An adaptation of his recent introduction to WALDEN.

Bridgman, Richard. DARK THOREAU. Lincoln: Univ. of Neb. Press, 1982. 306pp. Here is a book which is going to arouse a storm of controversy, I'll wager, for it is Bridgman's thesis that Thoreau was "deeply pessimistic," that he had "a hostile, punishing streak in him," that "vivid imaginative cruelty is a central feature of his writing," and that he "dwelt obsessively on viciousness, destruction, and dissolution." Now I think if anyone looks open-eyed and honestly at Thoreau, he cannot deny that there is an element of truth in what Bridgman is saying. I, for one, have never gotten over Thoreau's actually telling his old friend Therien, the French-Canadian woodchopper, when in later years he became an alcoholic, to cut his own throat, for example. But unfortunately Bridgman so overemphasizes his case (Is he, like Thoreau himself, purposefully "crowing lustily like Chanticleer, if only to wake his neighbours up"?) that he presents a far more distorted picture of Thoreau than those who would present him as a facile optimist. There are both elements in Thoreau, but if one were to stack up all his basically happy and optimistic statements and weigh them against his cruel and pessimistic statements, the former would overwhelm the latter. Note, for example, that all his major writings from WALDEN to "Civil Disobedience" end basically on an optimistic note.

For one thing, I think Bridgman is not in tune with Thoreau's sense of humor (For example, he cites Thoreau's race with Joe Polis in THE MAINE WOODS as "the only instance of...outright hilarity" he can find in Thoreau's writings, whereas I believe it would take little effort to compile a book of such examples), and therefor often mistakes Thoreau's humor for pessimism. And again, while it is certainly true, as Bridgman points out, that Thoreau very frequently records examples of cruelty and violence in nature, he is not doing it, as Bridgman suggests, because he is pessimistic or because he loves cruelty, but rather he is doing it because he is trying to give an objective and accurate portrayal of the world of nature around him, showing the bad along with the good. And if he did not do that, we would condemn him for looking at the world around him with the proverbial rose-colored glasses. One other facet of Bridgman's book is that he regularly condemns Thoreau for what he calls "verbal opacity." He accuses Thoreau of "ambiguous syntax, vague pronoun references, and a shifting subject and tone." Although Bridgman cites examples of these flaws, again I believe he exaggerates them, and, curiously, Bridgman's own writing itself is sometimes marred by ambiguity. Yet, with all my criticism of this book, I still urge all Thoreauvians to read and ponder it, for Bridgman forces us to face up to a facet of Thoreau's personality that too many want to ignore.

Clark, David. "The West Branch Revisited." THOREAU JOURNAL QUART. [TJQ], 13 July, 1981), 38-45

Cannon, Harold. "Thoreau's Journals." N.Y. TIMES BOOK REVIEW. Jan. 10, 1982.

Dillman, Richard H. "Thoreau's Harvard Education in Rhetoric and Composition, 1833-1837." TJQ, 13 (July, 1981),47-62.

Enns, Catherine. "Discovering Walden in Winter." CONCORD JOURNAL. Jan. 28,1982

Files, Lillian Lund. "'His Most Serene Birdship!' The Bluebird in Thoreau's Journal." SIALIA (Journal of the North American Bluebird Soc.), 4 (Winter, 1982), 23-27.

Garber, Frederick. "A Space for Saddleback: Thoreau's WEEK." CENTENNIAL REVIEW, 24 (1980), 322-337.

George, Jean. MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. New York: Dutton, 1959. 166pp. A children's novel of a young boy, inspired by Thoreau, camping out in the wilderness of the Catskills.

Hall, Donald, ed. "Henry David Thoreau" in THE OXFORD BOOK OF AMERICAN LITERARY ANECDOTES. New York: Oxford, 1981. pp. 82-88. A large collection of anecdotes about Thoreau, including several that have long since been disproven.

Harding, Anthony John. "Thoreau and the Adequacy of Homer." STUDIES IN ROMANTICISM, 20 (Fall, 1981), 317-332.

Harding, Walter. "Thoreau at Walden." in Tsutoma Shigematsu and Kazout Ono, eds. AN INVITATION TO AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. Tokyo: Eihosha, [1982], pp. 12-33. Text in English. Volume also includes three short pieces from Thoreau's works.

Huber, J. Parker. THE WILDEST COUNTRY: A GUIDE TO THOREAU'S MAINE. Boston: Appalachian Mountain Club, 1981. 196pp. Parker Huber, director of the Thoreau School of Wilderness Studies at Eastern Connecticut State College, who has since 1974 conducted "wilderness seminars" each summer retracing Thoreau's Maine Woods journeys, and who is a familiar at our Concord annual meetings, has presented us with a superb guidebook to retracing Thoreau's Maine Woods journeys. Huber not only traces out the exact routes of all of Thoreau's trips, but tells one precisely how to follow them. He not only gives details of Thoreau's adventures on these trips, but Huber's own adventures in tracing them out. He gives old and new photographs of the scenery; drawings and photographs of the flora and fauna of the area, with field notes on finding them; historical notes on the Indians and other early settlers; even recipes for some of Thoreau's favorite herbal teas. Side trips to see special sites Thoreau missed are also detailed. Maps to follow Thoreau's travels are very clearly delineated. Particularly valuable are the annotated bibliographies for each chapter. One of the many highpoints of the book is the first publication of an actual portrait of Thoreau's favorite guide, Joe Polis. Encompassing the whole book is an atmosphere of warmth and wit that makes it a delight to read. Any lover of Thoreau's MAINE WOODS, whether he intends to trace Thoreau's routes or just be an armchair explorer, will delight in this book. Now we hope Huber will follow it up with a similar volume on Thoreau's CAPE COD.

Kent, Norman. "Aldren A. Watson: Disciple of Walden." AMERICAN ARTIST. Mar. 1946, pp. 8ff. On the illustrator of WALDEN.

-----. "Thoreau MacDonald, Canadian Illustrator." AMERICAN ARTIST. Jan. 1946, pp. 22-25. On another illustrator of Thoreau.

Lunde, Erik S. HORACE GREELEY. Boston: Twayne, 1981. 138pp. This little volume in the United States Authors Series is more of a guide to Greeley's thought than to his life (although it includes a short biography). Most writers on Greeley, for some unknown reason, tend to overlook Thoreau's friendship with Greeley, but Lunde includes a separate section (pp. 47-49) on their relationship and helps us to better understand why Greeley was interested in Thoreau and why Thoreau admired Greeley. A brief but thoughtful little volume.

MacPhail, Ian. "Thoreau , A Man for the Coming Times." MORTON ARBORETUM QUARTERLY [Lisle, Ill.], 17 (Autumn, 1981), 33-39.

Manlove, George. "J. Parker Huber's Students Follow Their Teacher's Path to 'Wholeness.'" KEENE [N.H.] SENTINEL. Feb. 6, 1982. On his interest in Thoreau.

Mitchell, John Hanson. "Digging Thoreau." BOSTON MAGAZINE, 73 (Dec. digs at Walden.

Nelson, Raymond. VAN WYCK BROOKS: A WRITER'S LIFE. New York: Dutton, 1981. pp. 141-143 on Brooks' translating of the Bazelgette biography of Thoreau.

Parris, Peggy. "Lank Ghost, Odd Uncle, and Old Hero: Thoreau in Contemporary Petry." TJQ, 13 (July, 1981), 24-37.

Perotin, Claude. "Henry David Thoreau." in LES ECRVAINS ANTI-ESCLAVAGISTES AUX ETATS UNIS DE 1808 A 1861. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1979. pp. 356-381. Text in French.

Purdy, Sarah. "Thoreau Maps Discovered in Town House Closet." CONCORD JOURNAL. Jan. 14, 1982. Two Thoreau surveys discovered.

Rose, Anne C. TRANSCENDENTALISM AS A SOCIAL MOVEMENT, 1830-1850. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981. We have long needed a good history of the participation of the Transcendentalists in the reform movements of the time, for contrary to the popular impression that they lived in ivory towers, many of them were heavily involved. Unfortunately this volume, despite its title, does not fulfill the need. Mrs. Rose, by delving around in the unpublished papers of some of the Transcendentalists (and she has done a yeoman's job at that), has uncovered a good deal of interesting information about the group, but much of it is unfortunately not particularly pertinent to the subject. Getting involved in some of the theological controversies of the times, she really doesn't get down to her subject until nearly halfway through her book. Yet many of the important reform movements of the day she completely overlooks. Oddly she deliberately omits Thoreau from her discus-

sion (although his name keeps coming up) because "he was interested in social reform only by way of personal example"--this despite his active part in the anti-slavery movement and the fact that his "Civil Disobedience" has had wider influence than any other American reform essay. And even she admits that "Only Thoreau was able to translate the spirit of Transcendentalist reform into an antislavery program pertinent to the 1850's." (p.222)

Sayre, Robert F. "We Called Him Polis." TJQ, 13 (July, 1981), 10-14.

Schwartzman, Jack. "Henry David Thoreau and Henry George: Contrast and Comparison." FRAGMENTS, 19 (Ap. 1981), 6-7.

Sherwood, Mary. "Brief History of the Maine Thoreau Fellowship." TJQ, 13 (July, 1981), 7-9.

Simon, Louis. "Pour Henry-David Thoreau Bilan de Cinq Annees." EUROPE, 58 (October, 1980), 190-194.

Thoreau, Henry David. JOURNAL I. Review. TJQ, July, 1981.

-----. WORKS OF. Edited by Lily Owens. New York: Avenel Books, 1981. 713pp. A new, sturdily bound, well-printed anthology including WALDEN, "Walking," "Civil Disobedience," "Wild Apples," "Life without Principle," "Autumnal Tints," "Winter Walk," and excerpts from CAPE COD and MAINE WOODS, using the plates of the 1906 edition. A number of Gleason photographs are indifferently reproduced. The introduction says little.

Tissot, Roland. "Les Douze Echos D'-Economie dans WALDEN." ETUDES ANGLAISES, 34 (Jan., 1981), 32-43.

Van Dore, Wade. "The Two Waldens." TJQ, 13 (July, 1981)

Walker, Linda. "Wild Berries in Thoreau's Journal. TJQ, 13 (July, 1981), 15-22.

Wyss, Max A. RETOUR A LA NATURE. Lausanne: Bibliotheque des Arts, 1976.

Yarbrough, Stephen. "From the Vice of Intimacy to the Vice of Habit: The Theories of Friendship of Emerson and Thoreau." TJQ, 13 (July, 1981), 63-73.

Many of the above books may be ordered from the Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742.

March 16, 1855

THE LETTERS THAT GOT AWAY by Walter Harding

Although my colleagues (Carl Bode in the late 1950's and the staff of the Princeton Thoreau Edition recently) and I have made two lengthy searches for missing Thoreau correspondence, and although we have been exceedingly fortunate in turning up many new letters in each search, we have been both tantalized and frustrated by the existence of clues to other letters which we have been unable to track down. A clipping from the Springfield Republican in 1898 at the time H. G. O. Blake's death seems to indicate that Blake's letters to Thoreau, "more numerous, but less racy" than Thoreau's to Blake were still then in existence, but we have been unable to trace their whereabouts since that date. Arthur Christy speaks of correspondence between Thoreau and the Syracuse Orientalist Charles de-Berard Mills. Daniel Ricketson once suggested that Thoreau corresponded with the Irish poet William Allingham. Apparently several new letters from Thoreau to Isaiah Williams turned up briefly among some Williams family papers in Chappauqua, New York, in the early 1970s, but were sold in the settling of the estate of the owner, Mrs. George MacKay, and have since disappeared. Samuel Arthur Jones, in a letter of July 4, 1898, now in the Concord Free Public Library, tells of a Josiah Walter of 46 William Street, Worcester, Mass., who then owned some autograph letters of Thoreau he had inherited from his grandmother, who was a "near friend of the Thoreau family." Professor Daniel Gregory Mason of Columbia University once owned the manuscripts of two letters from Greeley to Thoreau and at one point he lent them to Van Wyck Brooks, but the papers of both Mason and Brooks have been searched and the letters not found. Professor Raymond Adams of the University of North Carolina once had a transcript of one of these letters, that of March 5, 1845, but that too has disappeared. Jonathan Katz has passed along to us the rumor of the existence of several letters between Thoreau and Emerson supposedly still in the hands of an unnamed member of the Emerson family that have never been published. Although curators of the two institutions have been unable to find them, we have been told that there are unpublished Thoreau letters in the archives of the Pringle Herbarium at the University of Vermont and of the Cape Ann Historical Society in Gloucester, Massachusetts. A rare book dealer who wishes to remain anonymous has told us of seeing Thoreau letters in the possession of a descendant of Frank Sanborn. We have also heard rumors of the extence in an unnamed institution in Germany of correspondence between Thoreau and a Clemens von Zimmerman, a relative of Johann Zimmerman, the author of Solitude. Perhaps most tantalizing of all is Carl Bode's telling us of meeting a young man at a football game in his undergraduate days who told him his family had in their attic in Vermont a number of letters from Thoreau to their grandfather who was "a friend of Thoreau." Unfortunately Professor Bode can no longer remember the young man's identity, where in Vermont he lived, or where the football game was held.

Like the legendary fisherman, we cannot help but mourn the "big ones" that got away leaving no trace at all. What we would not give for any of the correspondence between Thoreau and Ellen Sewall, but every evidence indicates that it was all destroyed long, long ago. At least there is no remaining trace of it in either the Thoreau or the Sewall family papers. What happened to Lidian Emerson's replies to Thoreau's ardent letters to her from Staten Island? Were they ever to turn up (but we have no clue that they ever will), what light they might shed on their puzzling relationship. And what about the correspondence between Sophia Ford and Thoreau? We have only that one intriguing paragraph in Thoreau's letter of November 14, 1847 to give us any hint as to its content, but that is enough to fascinate us. We could go on and on with such a list, but that is sufficient to sadden us with our losses.

We have tried our best to track these letters and

rumors down, but without success. Now as we are readying the new Princeton Edition of the Correspondence for the press, we are making this last plea, hoping perhaps some reader may know of additional clues that might help us track some of these elusive letters down so that we may include them in the new edition. Or--perhaps even better--you know of a letter or letters by Thoreau or to Thoreau that we have never heard of. If you do, please let us know now.

March 16, 1855

THOREAU MUSIC BY ERIC STOKES by Walter Harding

A few weeks ago I had the good fortune to attend the world premiere by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra of Eric Stokes' "The Granary of Birds" and a performance of his "Distant Drummer," both parts of his "Symphony(s) Book II" and both based on quotations taken from Thoreau. They were as witty and individualistic as Thoreau himself. I wrote Mr. Stokes, who is on the faculty of the University of Minnesota, to inquire of his interest in Thoreau and he replied:

> Walden; Civil Disobedience; The Allegash and the East Branch have long been favorites of mine since I first encountered Thoreau in a Freshman studies course at Lawrence College in 1948. As with our folk musics, rag-time, jazz, hymns and the work of our earlier great composers (Gershwin; Ives; Copland; Brant; Cage) the great writers of the American tradition (Whitman; Thoreau; Mark Twain; Hart Crane; Melville; so many more--Faulkner, Wolfe) those writings of Thoreau have been a constant spiritual guide in my own work.

He also adds:

> There is one other piece based on a theme from H.D.T., "The stars are the apexes of what wonderful triangles! What different and distant beings in the various mansions of the universe are contemplating the same one at the same moment." It is a chamber work for nine players arranged about the room in triangular configurations i.e., it is an example of spatial composition.

Our experience with Mr. Stokes' music has been delightful. We urge you to watch out for it.

March 16, 1855

THE THOREAU SOCIETY: A HISTORY: PART FOUR by Walter Harding

Another colorful member of the New York group was Roger Payne. A graduate of Oxford University, he came to this country and was corrupted into the simple life by a reading of WALDEN. He wrote a book entitled WHY WORK? and supported himself by peddling copies wherever he could. At the age of eighty he would hitchhike up to Concord for the annual meetings, carrying a sleepingbag and knapsack on his back. When he arrived in Concord, he would notify the police that he was back in town and would ask permission to sleep on the porch of the high school. He frequently announced that he was mentioning the Thoreau Society in his will. The society discovered it had to incorporate to receive any gifts, so Roger was the reason for the "Inc." at the end of our legal name. Sadly Roger was killed by a taxi in New York City and when his will was probated, we learned the society had inherited his entire remaining stock of WHY WORK?--twenty-four copies, which were handed out to members who requested them.

If I seem to be over-emphasizing the New York group, they were the ones who really kept the society going during the war. The national group became almost non-existant. As I have said, I had taken a leave of absence from the secretaryship because I had been drafted. As a conscientious objector I found myself in New York City working as a hospital orderly and being a human guinea pig in medical experiments under the direction of the American Friends Service Committee. Finding my life more stabilized than I had expected, I returned to the active secretaryship of the society, revived the bulletin (It had virtually ceased appearing.), and made plans for reviving the annual meetings (though I was unable to attend the 1945 meeting).

Those who did attend that meeting wandered out to Walden Pond in the afternoon and there began a debate as to whether the cairn truly marked the site of Thoreau's cabin. After all, the cairn was not started until some years after Thoreau's death and the site did not seem to check with all the details Thoreau gave in WALDEN. Allen French, the Concord historian, called over Roland Robbins of Lincoln, who had just published an enlightening little pamphlet on the history of the Concord Minute Man statue, and urged him to make a study of the cabin site. After months of research and digging, Roland did locate the precise site of the cabin only a few feet north of the cairn and gave his first public report on his discovery at our annual meeting. It was the beginning of his career as a professional archeologist.

With the revival of annual meetings in Concord, more and more Concordians became active in the society. Outstanding among these was Ruth (Mrs. Caleb) Wheeler. She and her husband ran the Thoreau Farm at Thoreau's birth site on Virginia Road. She still found time to be a regular reporter on the CONCORD JOURNAL and to pursue her hobby of Concord history. Her CONCORD: CLIMATE FOR FREEDOM (1967) is by far the best history of the town. Whenever there was work to be done, Ruth was there to do it. She served as vice-president of the society for a decade, seeing to all the details that made the annual meetings run smoothly. Right up to her death she was the society's ar-

chivist and organized all our files in the Concord Free Public Library. She had a sharp eye for details and kept a card file on every pre-20th century house in Concord, a file, now in the Concord library, which is invaluable to researchers. I personally am tremendously indebted to her. Many is the detail about Thoreau's life that she dug up for me, and I never would have written THE DAYS OF HENRY THOREAU without her constant (and gentle) needling. As Edwin Way Teale used to say of her, "She was the salt of the earth."

Another of the active Concordians is Esther (Mrs. Leslie) Anderson, who at ninety is one of the four remaining charter members of the society. For years she roamed the woods and fields of Concord tracking down the wildflowers Thoreau had found and photographing them in blossom in the very spots he had found them. For years she arranged bouquets of wildflowers for the annual meetings, a tradition now carried on by Fuzzy Fenn. Her slide shows of the Thoreau graced many an annual meeting, and her grandson Billy Anderson is still showing her slides at meetings today.

March 1, 1855

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

We are indebteded to the following for information submitted for this bulletin: E. Allison, W.Bottorff, F.Braun, A.Bussewitz, R.Chapman, W.Cummings, L.Conrad, L.Fergenson, R.Galvin, R.Ganley, V.Halbert, F.Halley, R.Haynes, R.Hoag, C.Hoagland, E.Johnson, D.Kamen-Kaye, K. Kasegawa, M.King, M.Meyer, R.deMiller, R. Needham, M.Nix, M.Pitts, G.Papademetrion, R.Poland, R.Quick, G.Ryan, E.Schofield, H.Schon, A.Small, J. Vickers, J.Zuithoff, and E.Zeitlin. Please keep your secretary informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.

Jim Dawson of Easton, Md., writes us that he has hand-copied all of WALDEN just to get better acquainted with the book. He filled two 240-page notebooks and took his spare time for forty-one days.

Jim also suggests that the reason for so many bent nails in the foundation hole of the Walden cabin might be that he was hammering into green unseasoned wood, which is hard enough to do with modern nails.

Chapel Hill Rare Books in North Carolina is offering for sale a copy of DANIEL RICKETSON AND HIS FRIENDS with, laid in, a letter from Sophia Thoreau to Ricketson, a letter from Ricketson to Thoreau, and several poems of Ricketson, all in manuscript.

Dennis Means of Hingham, Mass. owns a page of draft manuscript of "Life without Principle" which includes a reference to an "Irish girl who went to live at a milk farmer's in my neighborhood." Does anyone recognize that as a reference to a journal entry?

Chairman James Scholes of the English Dept. at S.U.N.Y. Geneseo has announced that an all-day conference on Thoreau will be held at Geneseo on Saturday, October 16, 1982 in honor of the approaching retirement of Walter Harding. The public is invited. For information write Prof. Scholes.

Donald Weber, 320 Brink Road, Candor, N.Y. 13743 would be interested in corresponding with some other member, particularly someone who is currently exploring Thoreau's journal.

Your secretary will again conduct a series of seminars on Thoreau at the Thoreau Lyceum in Concord: "Thoreau: The Man," (July 5-9); "Exploring WALDEN and Walden," (July 12-16); and "Thoreau:Traveler," (July 19-23). They are open to all, undergraduate, graduate or non-collegiate. Address inquiries to him at Geneseo.

May 7, 1855

THE 1982 ANNUAL MEETING . . . .

The 1982 annual meeting will be held on Saturday July 10 at the First Parish Church in Concord, Mass. Coffee will be served at 9 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 10:15. Michael Meyer will speak on "North Star, Morning Star." John McAleer will give the presidential address on "Thoreau & Emerson." A luncheon will be served at noon. Cost, $6.50. (Reservations must be in the hands of Mrs. Russell Wheeler, 91 Hayward Ct., Concord, Mass. 01742 by July 1st.)

Saturday afternoon Jane Langton will speak on "Thoreau, Then & Now." Visits will be arranged to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Fairhaven Cliff, Concord Free Public Library and the Emerson House. The usual sherry party will be held at the Thoreau Lyceum at 5, followed by a box supper at 6. Cost, $4.00. (Reservations must be in the hands of Mrs. Thomas McGrath, Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742 by July 6.) At the evening meeting, Dennis Taylor will speak on "Thoreau & Thomas Hardy."

The Joint committee (Dana Greeley, chairman) of the Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Lyceum (Thoreau Foundation, Inc.) expects to recommend to the annual meetings of both institutions closer cooperation between the two and is seriously considering the possibility of their ultimate merger. The committee also expects to report on reassigning the following duties so long and well performed by Walter Harding: keeping the financial records, membership rolls, and distribution of publications. The committee is happy to have been reassured that Walter Harding is to continue as Secretary-Treasurer, editing the Thoreau Society publications and attending to the society's correspondence. The society is also expecting to entertain a motion from the executive committee to raise the society's annual dues.

On Friday night, July 9, The Thoreau Lyceum will present a lecture by Leonard Neufeldt on "Thoreau in the Context of Revolutionary Republicanism." On Sunday morning, July 11, there will be a special Thoreau service at the First Parish Church. The public is invited to both.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Thomas Blanding, Joel Myerson, and Beth Witherell, chairperson) submit the following list of nominees to be voted on at the annual meeting: President Anne Zwinger, Colorado Springs, Col.; President-elect, Frederick Wagner, Clinton, N.Y.; Vice-President Marion Wheeler, Concord; and Secretary-Treasurer, Walter Harding, Geneseo, N.Y.; all for terms of one year. Executive committee: for terms of three years: Jane Langton, Lincoln, Mass., and Edmund Schofield, Columbus, Ohio; for a term of one year, Fritz Oehlschlaeger, Blacksburg, Va. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

Robert Erwin's very negative article about Thoreau in the November, 1981 HARVARD MAGAZINE aroused a storm of protest and many letters denouncing the article appear in the Jan. 1982 issue.